

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

ANDRE JUSTICE ATWATER,

Defendant.

CASE NO. MJ24-466

COMPLAINT for VIOLATIONS

BEFORE Mary Alice Theiler, United States Magistrate Judge, Seattle,
Washington.

COUNT 1
(Possession of Machineguns)

On or about June 23, 2024, in King County, within the Western District of
Washington, ANDRE JUSTICE ATWATER did knowingly and unlawfully possess
machineguns, that is, numerous Glock switch devices, parts designed and intended solely
and exclusively for use in converting a weapon into a machinegun.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(o) and 921(a)(24),
and Title 26, United States Code, Section 5845(b).

The undersigned, Greg Tomlinson, complainant being duly sworn states:

1 I am a 30-year veteran of the Seattle Police Department (SPD). I was initially
2 assigned as a patrol officer to the West and South Precincts and later assigned to the SPD
3 Gang Unit as a Detective in 1999. As a detective, I investigated shootings, felony
4 assaults, robberies, and other violent crimes. In 2005, I began serving as a Task Force
5 Officer (TFO) with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) as
6 part of their Violent Gangs Task Force. As I member of the task force, I investigated
7 felony gun and narcotics crimes for federal prosecution. These investigations involved
8 using confidential informants, undercover officers, and proactive street operations.

9 In 2015, I moved to the ATF's Crime Gun Task Force. This task force used the
10 National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) system to forensically
11 connect crime scenes involving firearms to assist in the identification of suspects. The
12 task force would then locate and arrest these suspects. In 2019, I was assigned to the SPD
13 Gun Violence Reduction Unit where I continued to investigate shootings and other
14 firearm related crimes. In 2022, I was selected to be a member of the United States
15 Marshal's Service Northwest Fugitive Apprehension Team. This task force has the
16 responsibility of locating and arresting wanted federal and state fugitives.

17 I have written dozens of search warrants for firearms, cell phones, vehicles, and
18 residences in furtherance of criminal investigations and have recovered useful
19 information and evidence from these warrants in the past. I am familiar with firearms and
20 have investigated numerous crimes involving firearms, including assaults, robberies,
21 harassment, and unlawful possession.

22 This affidavit is made based upon my personal knowledge, training, experience,
23 and investigation, as well as upon information provided to me and my review of reports
24 prepared by other law enforcement personnel. This affidavit is made for the purpose of
25 establishing probable cause for this Complaint and thus does not include every fact
26 known to me concerning this investigation.

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SUMMARY OF PROBABLE CAUSE

On June 23, 2024, at 12:29 a.m., SPD officers responded to the area of 8th Avenue South and South King Street for a reported shooting offense. Officers contacted two male victims hunched over in pain. One of the men appeared to have a gunshot wound on his upper back and the other had an apparent gunshot wound on the right side of his ribcage. One of the victims stated that prior to the shooting a green light from a firearm laser illuminated his clothing. He pointed to the open window of an apartment unit in the building located at 410 8th Avenue South as the location from which he saw the green laser emanate. Officers determined that this was Unit 4 in the building.

Officers contacted the resident of Unit 3, who stated that he had seen his neighbor in Unit 4 with firearms in the past, including one with a green laser. This witness also stated that, in the past, his neighbor shot at people with a BB gun out of his apartment window when he believed they were prowling his vehicle. The witness described the neighbor in Unit 4 as a light-skinned black or Hispanic male who lived with a female partner and a small child.

Officers then knocked on Unit 4 and the door was answered by A.K., Atwater's finance and mother of his child. A.K. claimed to know nothing about a shooting and stated that Atwater was "at work." A.K. gave officers consent to search the apartment for the shooting suspect.

As officers entered the apartment, they noticed multiple guns in plain view and an open gun safe with approximately 15 guns inside. There was a rifle style weapon leaning up against the open window where the shots came from; this was later determined to be a high-powered BB gun. As the officers entered one of the bedrooms, they located Atwater hiding inside a closet. He was placed under arrest for the assault/shooting. The apartment was then secured pending application for a search warrant, which was granted a few hours later by a King County Superior Court Judge.

During the execution of the warrant, officers discovered that one of the apartment's two bedrooms had been converted to a work room with a 3D printer, a large drill press machine, milling and other tools, and numerous firearms and firearm parts.

1 Among other things, officers recovered from this room: a 9mm handgun with a green
2 laser sight (hidden in a laundry hamper); two bags full of Glock switch devices
3 (approximate count of 100); approximately 16 unserialized privately manufactured
4 handguns and four unserialized semiautomatic rifles (commonly referred to as “ghost
5 guns”); a few serialized rifles; 24 AK47 magazines, 10 Glock magazines, and assorted
6 other magazines; two suspected firearm silencers (pending forensic testing); several
7 boxes of ammunition; and various other firearm parts, including numerous lower
8 receivers for pistols and rifles, firearm frames, and grips. On the wall of this room was
9 posted a Washington State business license for the Gaston & Stoner Corporation, d/b/a
10 Gun Craft HQ. According to records of the Washington Secretary of State, Andre
11 Atwater is the registered agent for this business.



22 I know based on my training and experience that 3D printers and drill presses are
23 commonly used to manufacture firearms and firearm parts. I also know that Glock switch
24 devices are designed to attach to the slide of a Glock-style semiautomatic pistol. The
25 Glock switch makes the pistol capable of automatic fire; that is, firing multiple rounds
26 with one pull of the trigger at a rate of up to five rounds per second. This is the only use
27 for a Glock switch. As such, Glock switch devices meet the definition of a “machinegun”

1 under Title 18, United States Code, Section 921(a)(24), and Title 26, United States Code,
2 Section 5845(b), because they are “parts designed and intended solely and exclusively for
3 use in converting a weapon into a machinegun.”



3D printer and accessories
for making gun parts.



Manufacturing equipment for
firearms



Bags of Glock switch devices



Two Glock switch devices

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1 On July 31, 2024, I interviewed A.K. She explained that all of the firearms,
2 firearms parts, and related machinery/tools that were in their apartment belonged to
3 Atwater. A.K. stated that Atwater is extremely interested in and knowledgeable about
4 firearms and has tattoos of firearms on his arms. A.K. confirmed that the business of
5 Gaston & Stoner Corporation, d/b/a Gun Craft HQ, was established by Atwater. A.K.
6 claimed not to have any knowledge of the specifics of Atwater's firearm manufacturing
and/or trafficking activities.

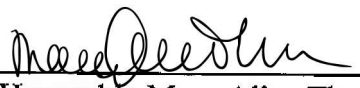
7 **CONCLUSION**

8 Based on the foregoing facts, I respectfully submit that there is probable cause to
9 believe that ANDRE JUSTICE ATWATER committed the offense alleged in this
10 Complaint.

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13 
14 GREG TOMLISON
Detective, Seattle Police Department

15 The above agent provided a sworn statement attesting to the truth of the contents
16 of the foregoing affidavit. Based on the Complaint and the sworn statement, the Court
17 hereby finds that there is probable cause to believe the Defendant committed the offense
18 set forth in the Complaint.

19 Dated this 6th day of August, 2024.

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22 
23 The Honorable Mary Alice Theiler
24 United States Magistrate Judge